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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/551,946

10/05/2005

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EXAMINER

MARTIN, ANGELA J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1795

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/02/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/551,946	Applicant(s) KIM ET AL.	
	Examiner Angela J. Martin	Art Unit 1795	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to the Remarks filed on February 28, 2008. The Applicant submitted a verified English translation of the certified foreign priority document in order to perfect the priority. However, a new rejection is presented for the following reasons of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim, KR 1020000014672 (machine translation) in view of Morigaki et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,821,675.

Rejection of claims 1-7 drawn to an anode active material.

Kim teaches an anode active material slurry comprising: (a) a carbon-based anode active material, that is capable of lithium ion intercalation/deintercalation (Li-ion secondary battery) (abstract); (b) a conductive agent (section 10); (c) a binder comprising a styrene-butadiene-based polymer resin (section 10); (d) a thickener comprising a cellulose-based (section 18); and (f) water (section 18).

Kim does not teach a dispersant comprising a polymer backbone capable of surface-adsorption and a side-chain having non-ionic surfactant properties. The anode active material slurry according to claim 1, wherein the content of the dispersant ranges from 0.01 wt % to 10 wt % based on the total weight of the anode active material slurry (solid content). The anode active material slurry according to claim 1, wherein the polymer backbone in the dispersant is polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) or polyvinylidene fluoride (PVdF). The anode active material slurry according to claim 1, wherein the side-chain having non-ionic surfactant properties in the dispersant is at least one selected from the group consisting of alkyl- and alkylaryl-polyoxyethylene ethers, alkylarylformaldehyde-condensated polyoxyethylene ethers, block polymers having polyoxypropylene as an oleophilic group, polyoxyethylene ethers of glycerin ester, polyoxyethylene ethers of sorbitan ester, polyoxyethylene ethers of sorbitol ester, polyethyleneglycol fatty acid esters, glycerin esters, sorbitan esters, propyleneglycol esters, sugar esters, fatty acid alkanol amides, polyoxyethylene fatty acid amides, polyoxyethylene alkylamines, amine oxides, alcohol ethoxylates, polyethylene oxide (PEO-based materials), alkyl phenol ethoxylates, fatty amine ethoxylates, glucosides, ethylene oxide-propylene oxide copolymers and alkanolamides. The anode active material slurry according to claim 1, wherein the dispersant is a copolymer formed of polymethylmethacrylate and polyethylene oxide. The anode active material slurry according to claim 1, wherein the dispersant has a weight average molecular weight ranged from 10,000 to 30,000. A lithium secondary cell comprising an anode obtained by using the anode active material slurry according to claim 1. The lithium secondary

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cell according to claim 7, wherein the content of the dispersant ranges from 0.01 wt % to 10 wt % based on the total weight of the anode active material slurry (solid content).

The lithium secondary cell according to claim 7, wherein the polymer backbone in the dispersant is polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) or polyvinylidene fluoride (PVdF). The lithium secondary cell according to claim 7, wherein the side-chain having non-ionic surfactant properties in the dispersant is at least one selected from the group consisting of alkyl- and alkylaryl-polyoxyethylene ethers, alkylarylformaldehyde-condensated polyoxyethylene ethers, block polymers having polyoxypropylene as an oleophilic group, polyoxyethylene ethers of glycerin ester, polyoxyethylene ethers of sorbitan ester, polyoxyethylene ethers of sorbitol ester, polyethyleneglycol fatty acid esters, glycerin esters, sorbitan esters, propyleneglycol esters, sugar esters, fatty acid alkanol amides, polyoxyethylene fatty acid amides, polyoxyethylene alkylamines, amine oxides, alcohol ethoxylates, polyethylene oxide (PEO-based materials), alkyl phenol ethoxylates, fatty amine ethoxylates, glucosides, ethylene oxide-propylene oxide copolymers and alkanolamides. The lithium secondary cell according to claim 7, wherein the dispersant is a copolymer formed of polymethylmethacrylate and polyethylene oxide. The lithium secondary cell according to claim 7, wherein the dispersant has a weight average molecular weight ranged from 10,000 to 30,000.

Morigaki et al., teach a polymer backbone in the dispersant is polyethylene oxide (col. 13, lines 9-14).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to insert the teachings of Morigaki et al., into Kim because

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Morigaki et al., teach the PEO is used as a binder when dispersed in the electrode slurry.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the prior art of Inada et al. (priority date), have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela J. Martin whose telephone number is (571)272-1288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AJM

/Angela J. Martin/

Examiner, Art Unit 1795